

Who is Involved?

The Federal Government

VLER is led by DoD, VA, and the DoD/VA Interagency Program Office (IPO), which coordinates DoD/VA information-sharing initiatives. DoD and VA are working with other federal partners to implement VLER.

The Private Sector

VLER builds on previous DoD and VA data-sharing initiatives, but goes a step further by including private health care providers. Partners involved in initial VLER pilots have included Kaiser Permanente and Med Virginia. The ultimate goal is to open up VLER to a wide variety of private partners.



More than half of all Service Members and Veterans receive a portion of their care from private facilities. VLER aims to ensure that care providers have access to the most complete health information possible.

How do I learn more?

The lead organization for DoD participation in VLER is Personnel & Readiness Information Management, under the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. For more information please email **VLERinfo@osd.pentagon.mil** or visit the Office of Personnel and Readiness Information Management Web site, at: **<https://www.mpm.osd.mil>**

VLER The Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record Initiative



What is VLER?

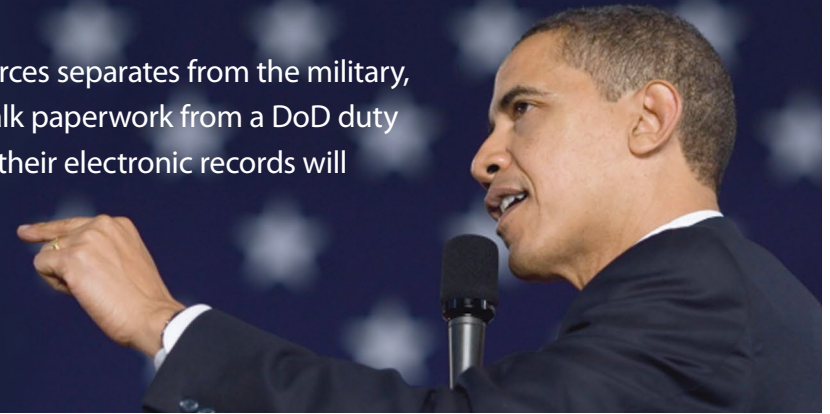
VLER is an initiative designed to share Service Members' and Veterans' electronic health information seamlessly between the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and private providers from whom they receive care.

VLER will . . .

- Allow multidirectional exchange of patient health and benefits information between private health care providers, VA Medical Centers and Military Treatment Facilities, improving the continuity of care.
- Offer a more complete picture of a patient's medical history regardless of where he or she has received care
- Take the burden off the patient for carrying paper copies of records from one office to another
- Provide a common access point for a patient's electronic records

VLER is not a new records-management system, or even a new set of health records. Instead, it allows existing systems to communicate with each other, regardless of which organization owns them.

"When a member of the Armed Forces separates from the military, he or she will no longer have to walk paperwork from a DoD duty station to a local VA health center; their electronic records will transition along with them and remain with them forever."



How does VLER work?

VLER will leverage existing systems and develop the methods and technology needed to safely share information between these systems. Patient records will continue to reside where they do now – in systems owned and maintained by DoD, VA, and private providers.

VLER will share health information while adhering to the strictest and most rigorous standards of privacy and security, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), so that our Service Members and Veterans can have confidence that their medical records will be protected. Authorized medical professionals will retain the ability to access patient records, but VLER will bring new information to their fingertips, providing access to information from other facilities where patients have received care. In addition to improving continuity of care, in the long term, VLER will enable patients to access their own health and administrative information securely online.

